# Interoperability Related Highlights from APCO Conference
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Radios Update

FCC Roundtable

- Broadband

- Narrowbanding

Plain Language

PSAP Consolidation

# Radios Update

Several Manufacturers have developed 7/800 MHz radios capable of trunking

Multiband Radios

- Thales Liberty – No new developments. Still working on multi site trunking. Radio comes preloaded with an interop zone that has all federal interoperable channels loaded and not accessible to programming.

- Harris – No new updates. Still waiting for trunking capability. Hope to release in next few months.

- Motorola – APEX 7000. Now have a "fire" model available with larger knobs for operation with Gloves.

- Motorola is also releasing its APEX 6000 Series which is single band. Encryption capability is limited at this time.

# D-Block

- FCC agrees with APCO that public safety needs the D Block. However, they disagree on next steps.

- Large push by everyone at APCO to "Stop the D-Block Auction".

- Large support for Senator McCain Bill regarding the D-Block Auction, including the circulation of a petition.

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## Narrowbanding

- Reiterated that FCC has no plans to move the 2013 deadline.

- Questions were asked about whether the FCC would accept and consider extension requests in particular cases.

- FCC will accept extension requests.

- Requests will be evaluated based on:
  - » Explanation of why requesting agency is not further along in the process given the fact that the mandate has been in place since the early 1990's.
  - » Explanation of steps that have been taken to date to narrowband and when these activities will be complete.

- Requests will be carefully scrutinized. Agencies should NOT count on receiving approval for any such request.

# Plain Language

One of the hot topics across the conference

Currently plain language is only deemed to be required in interoperable situations.

This was not the intent of the standard but a former Homeland Security Director gave this interpretation thus allowing agencies to hold on to coded substitutions.

Anticipate a large push (perhaps tied to homeland security funding) to mandate plain language across the board with a short timeline to change over.

- Mesa made the switch to plain language in 96 days.

- Several agencies across the nation have changed in a short time frame and all have reported success

Another very hot topic at the conference.

PSAP Consolidation is progressing across the nation.

Advice Given:

- Do NOT consolidate with cost savings as your motive.
- Consolidate with increased service as your motive.
- Expensive on front end; Savings come down the road
- Service improves in every case once consolidation is complete.

A White Paper on Consolidation has been developed. See APCO Website at www.apcointl.org

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